(b) Agriculture is a State subject and all necessary initiatives continue to be taken by the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard and has always laid great emphasis on solving the problems of the farmers. In fact, the National Agricultural Policy, 2000 has been replaced with National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 to give centrality to farmers and to ensure that human dimension must be the principal determinant of agricultural policies. It may be specifically mentioned here that the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, submitted a revised draft National Policy for Farmers along with its fifth and final Report in October, 2006 incorporating its main recommendations. The NPF, 2007 is based on the said revised draft NPF submitted by the NCF.

The NPF, 2007 mentions about the need to focus more on the economic well-being of the farmers, rather than just on production. Accordingly, the first major goal of the NPF 2007 is to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers and to ensure that agricultural progress is measured by advances made in this income.

A plan of action for operationalisation of NPF 2007 has been drawn and a monitoring mechanism put in place to oversee the progress of the implementation of the provisions contained in NPF. This along with an array of other initiatives by Government like substantial increase in the minimum support prices of important agricultural crops, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, etc. will ensure that not only the 4 per cent annual growth in agriculture is achieved but it also results in substantial improvement in socio-economic well-being of the farmers.

Endangered Indian Languages

*133. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (2009), India now leads the World by being home to a whopping 196 endangered languages;

(b) if so, whether a two day international seminar was held at New Delhi to discuss how to save these languages; and

(c) if so, the details of discussions held in the seminar and steps taken by Government to protect the Indian languages from dying?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The 'UNESCO Atlas of World's Languages in Danger', which according to UNESCO is a 'living' data base being corrected constantly on the basis of user feed back and screening of specialist, lists 196 languages for India, whose degree of endangerment varies from 'Vulnerable' to 'Extinct' as follows:—

Vulnerable Languages:	84
Definitely Endangered Languages:	62
Severely Endangered Languages:	06
Critically Endangered Languages:	35
Extinct Languages (since the 1950s)	09
TOTAL:	196

The next country in the same list with maximum number of languages under threat is United States of America (USA) with 192 languages. USA is followed by Brazil (190), Indonesia (147), China (144) and Mexico (144).

(b) The Intangible Heritage Division of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a Non-Governmental Organisation working in the field of promoting and preserving the cultural heritage and funded by various Government agencies and other individual funding agencies, had recently conducted a two-day International Seminar on Endangered Languages in India on 22-23 October, 2009, at the India International Centre Auditorium, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi. One of the participants in the said seminar conducted by INTACH was the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) A copy of the issues discussed and covered during different sessions of the two-day International Seminar on Endangered Languages in India held in New Delhi on 22-23 October, 2009, is given as Statement (*See* below).

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, was set up in the year 1969 to:—

— Coordinate the work of State Language Institutes, Tribal Research Institutes and Bureaus, University Departments of Languages and Linguistics etc.

— Coordinate the development of Indian languages by conducting research in the areas of language analysis, language pedagogy, language technology and language use in the society.

— Serve as a clearing house of information on all matters relating to the development of Indian languages in the country and abroad.

— Promote the development of languages of Scheduled Tribes, Development of methods, materials and aids for teaching Indian languages.

— Conduct of language courses through seven regional language centres etc.

— Development of human resource and production of materials in Indian languages including the minor/non-scheduled languages.

— Development of suitable translation techniques and conduct courses for translators.

CIIL is actively engaged in the development of all Indian languages including minor/non-scheduled languages and languages of Scheduled Tribes through its various programmes and schemes. The steps taken by CIIL so far in this direction include documentation of 83 non-scheduled languages with digitised data, preparation of pictorial glossaries for 29 non-scheduled languages, preparation of grammar for 49 non-scheduled languages, preparation of dictionaries for 19 non-scheduled languages and preparation of primers in 21 non-scheduled languages. In addition, 31 non-scheduled languages are taken up for field and comparative studies, folklore studies and cultural documentation.

This Ministry has also reviewed with the States/Union Territories, the progress made in the Preservation and Development of Minor Indian Languages which are not covered under the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India. It was noticed that many States/UTs have taken concrete action to develop these non-scheduled languages.

Statement

Issues discussed and covered during different sessions of the two-day International Seminar on Endangered Languages in India held in New Delhi on 22-23 October, 2009 organised by INTACH

Session I: Overview of Endangered Languages in India Pinpointing the Problems

(i) Which language family poses the biggest threat?

(ii) Which geographical areas are threatened most?

(iii) Status of the mother tongue in education and society.

Session II: Is Revival Possible or Desirable — Best Practice

(i) Problems and Solutions in Revival Programmes

(ii) How to save Endangered Languages — Documentation and Archiving

(iii) Case Studies

Session III: Impact of Hindi and other Scheduled languages on Unwritten Languages

Session IV: (Part-1) Language of Education, Empowerment (Language and Power)

(i) Monolingualism in schools — its enforcement/encouragement (Language of Understanding, Communication, Discussion)

(ii) Endangerment of Mother Tongue — Insecurities, Dislocation

(iii) Mother Tongue/Endangered Language inclusion in Curriculum

Session IV: **(Part-2) Language of Education, Empowerment (Language and Power)**

(i) Language Empowerment